

in small and rustic communities all across the West. Judge Pryor has worked tirelessly at the state and federal level to ensure attention to basic services such as education and health care in small towns. She's worked hard to maintain funding for county roads while promoting and encouraging economic development and commerce within the county.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the joy to work closely with Laura on numerous issues through the years, and know well the deep devotion she brings to her job each and every day in representing her fellow citizens in Gilliam County. It is this devotion that propelled a county effort to construct a Grain Quality Lab that has enabled area wheat growers to become more competitive in the global marketplace by enhancing quality and productivity. I was honored to help her in this endeavor, and will be visiting this topnotch facility next month. She has also been a strong proponent for renewable energy efforts and has worked to locate wind farms within the county for an additional tax base and source of revenue.

While it is very difficult to choose Judge Pryor's most memorable accomplishments, many would say it has been her successful effort to unite rural Oregon as one voice. Laura's leadership among her elected peers led to the establishment of the Eastern Oregon Rural Alliance, which joins government officials with residents from all across the vast territory of eastern Oregon in advocacy for rural issues. Her efforts ultimately led to the creation of the Office of Rural Policy, which was established by the state of Oregon to examine how state policies impact rural communities and act as an advisory branch to the state legislature and the governor.

Mr. Speaker, my remarks illustrate but a few of the tremendous accomplishments Judge Pryor has made during her distinguished career. I appreciate my colleagues joining me today in congratulating Judge Laura Pryor, an extraordinary lady and great American. I wish Laura and her husband, Earl, many years of continued happiness and success.

SAFETEA-LU AMENDMENTS ACT

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I insert in the RECORD a letter from me to Speaker HASTERT regarding H.R. 5689, making technical corrections to SAFETEA-LU.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,

Washington, DC, September 29, 2006.

Hon. DENNIS J. HASTERT,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: On June 28, 2006 the House passed H.R. 5689, making technical corrections to the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA: LU). Yesterday, I introduced a bill that revises H.R. 5689 to incorporate changes that the Senate has asked us to include (H.R. 6233). These changes are necessary to ensure that all policies, programs and projects embodied in last year's long-term highway, transit, and highway safety authorization bill are implemented as intended by the Congress.

On September 14, 2006 the House passed H. Res. 1000, instituting a new standing order of the House with regard to earmarks in authorization, appropriations, and tax measures. H. Res. 1000 provides that, in order to consider a bill, the committee of jurisdiction must list all earmarks included in the bill and committee report along with the names of Members requesting the earmarks.

The bi-partisan bill that I introduced yesterday has not been reported by the Committee, so there is no report or list of earmarks. In reading the standing order, I concluded that the requirement that a list appear with this bill does not apply because the point of order described in section 1(c) of H. Res. 1000 does not lie against a bill considered under suspension of the rules. I intend to move to suspend the rules of the House to pass H.R. 6233.

This bill does not increase the amount of funding that is designated for projects in SAFETEA: LU. There are changes to the descriptions of projects that are currently in SAFETEA: LU and there are some projects to replace projects in SAFETEA: LU that cannot be executed or implemented. In this correction bill, however, the total amount of funding designated for projects is identical to the amount that was designated in SAFETEA: LU.

Where this bill does provide funding (which is offset by a rescission of contract authority), the legislative sections providing such funding do not meet the earmarking definition, because no entity is named as the intended recipient of the funds. Where this bill does designate specific entities, or amend underlying project designations in SAFETEA: LU, it does not provide new funding. In addition this bill provides for no new outlays. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office has scored the bill as reducing contract authority by \$4 million over five years.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

DON YOUNG,
Chairman

IN HONOR OF JOHN SIMPSON

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate John Simpson on the occasion of his retirement from public service. John has worked as Director of Constituent Services and Senior Issues in the office of Manhattan Borough President Scott M. Stringer since January 2006. Prior to this position, Mr. Simpson served as Director of Constituent Services for then Assemblymember Scott M. Stringer on the Upper West Side of Manhattan since 1993. John has assisted hundreds of constituents throughout Manhattan in landlord-tenant disputes, consumer issues, and every other problem in the spectrum.

Mr. Simpson came to work in government after 40 years in private industry at the Hallen Construction Corporation where he worked after serving our country. He served in the United States Air Force from 1951–1955 and was recognized officially for Superior Efficiency as the Head of the Morning Report Unit.

On the Upper West Side, Mr. Simpson is a leader in our community. He is an active member of the Church of the Blessed Sac-

rament on West 71st Street, where he is a co-leader in one of the soup kitchen teams. He is also a Vice Chairman of Community Services and member of the Board of Directors of the Ansonia Democratic Club. In 1999, the West Side Spirit named Mr. Simpson a "Hero of the West Side" for his work towards social justice.

For his commitment to his community and his City, it is my privilege to congratulate John Simpson on his distinguished record of service and his retirement.

RECOGNIZING FINANCIAL PLANNING WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 973, and the goals and the ideals of Financial Planning Month. I am proud to say that I am an original co-sponsor of this bill, and a member of the Financial Literacy Education Caucus.

I would first like to start by thanking my colleagues Mrs. BIGGERT and Mr. Hinojosa for their leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, we need to be paying more attention to financial literacy in this country, and to making sure our constituents have the tools to be responsible consumers, good savers and savvy investors.

An estimated 40 percent of Americans say they know only some, a little or not much, about how to manage their finances and only 10 percent of college students have had financial education in high school.

And yet, everyday life requires an increasing knowledge of banking and finance. The average American family spends \$200,000 to raise a child to the age of 18, but the overall savings in this country barely breaks above 1 percent.

Prices for basic essentials—for health care, housing, schooling—are all skyrocketing. How are our families going to pay for it all if they aren't saving?

I am pleased that the Congress is voting to pass this financial planning awareness resolution at this time. Next week, I will be hosting the banking and finance portion of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Summit.

Financial literacy education is such an important topic that I have chosen to make it the focus of our summit. During our discussion, we will talk about "best practices" in financial literacy education.

It is essential that our citizens develop the tools of good financial management. These are the tools that will allow them to build wealth to enrich their families and communities.

They are also the tools that will protect them from fraud and exploitation, and help them be more responsible with their finances. This is not just important for individuals and their families, it is important to our nation as a whole. Less debt, more savings and more investment will be the foundation of our future economic success.

Once again I thank my colleagues for bringing H. Res. 973 to the floor and urge its passage.